

Days like these



Carole Défossé previews ASECAP Days 2017: preparing toll motorways for a future of decarbonised transport and new mobility challenges

With 72 per cent of Europeans moving by car and 60 per cent of freight being transported by trucks, road infrastructures are central to Europe's mobility and toll roads form a key part of those networks. It is against this background that ASECAP (the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures) will hold its 45th annual meeting, known as Study & Information Days, from 29 to 31 May 2017 in Paris (France). The meeting will look at how toll motorway operators prepare their road infrastructures for transport decarbonisation and respond to the new mobility challenges.

The ASECAP Days will provide an occasion for toll road operators, policy makers and public and private stakeholders to

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discuss a broad range of issues. Topics will include financing of new mobility needs and trends, EETS, cooperative intelligent transport systems, sustainable mobility, road maintenance, automated and connected driving technologies, security and data protection issues, protecting and preserving the environment, and innovative

marketing services, tools and mobile apps for road infrastructures.

DAY ONE

The first day (Tuesday 30 May) will be devoted to a major political session that will focus on the new procedures to be followed to finance new mobility needs and trends. Reliable and safe road networks are crucial for Europe's economy and citizens.

Therefore, with public budgets under strong pressure, concession contracts remain a powerful instrument to well maintained and high-quality road infrastructures that employ modern technology to accommodate connected and automated driving, car sharing, carpooling, the use of mobile technologies (apps), smart tolling (as a means to internalising external costs),

new concepts of traffic management and dynamic traffic management, and emerging payment systems. Collectively, these will contribute to decarbonizing transport, promoting multimodal transport and supporting new mobility trends. Throughout the day financial experts, policy makers, managers from toll motorway operators will share their ideas and experiences on the topic and provide solutions that can be applied.

Furthermore, there will be policy sessions dedicated to the following issues: one session will focus on the latest developments and future orientations concerning EETS. The second one will explore the actions undertaken by toll road operators to ensure a smooth transition to more innovative, advanced, safe and efficient ITS solutions, with an insight into how automated and connected driving could deliver all the promised results and the role of the road infrastructure in accommodating automated and connected driving. Automated and connecting driving will indeed have a major impact on our traditional perception of road transport and our vision of mobility. Both “traditional” and automated vehicles will share the same motorway networks. Therefore, there is an urgent need to create a legal framework that will integrate automated vehicles in the transport system. This is the objective that is outlined in the European Strategy on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) recently launched by the European Commission, whose ambition is to see connected vehicles on European roads by 2019, meaning that toll road operators need to prepare their infrastructures.

The third session of the day will look at ASECAP members’ innovative projects, tools and means to maintain and preserve their infrastructure assets. Members will share their experiences to better maintain

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ASECAP: need to know

EVENT

45th ASECAP Study & Information Days

DATE

29-31 May 2017

VENUE

Hotel Pullman Montparnasse
19 Rue du Commandant René
Mouchotte
F-75014 Paris

REGISTRATION

Register by 7 April 2017 and you will benefit from early bird fees!

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their assets by optimizing and developing innovative predictive maintenance tools. Concrete examples of best practices and case studies on how to safeguard the infrastructure assets and prevent them deteriorating (and therefore to prevent important costs to rebuild them if damaged) will be presented. Road maintenance and preser-

vation of the asset are crucial to guarantee road safety alongside the motorway networks.

DAY TWO

Delegates will hear about the challenges concerning the digitalization of transport infrastructure and the related management of transport and personal data. Perhaps the highlight of the second day is, as part of the session, the keynote address by an FBI Special Agent working in the Cyber Branch who will look at how toll road infrastructure operators can and should protect their data communication systems in the context of an increasingly digitalized motorway sector.

Vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications and related data products urgently need to be secured because they could be hacked into – deliberately or not – causing crashes with dramatic consequences (fatalities and/or serious injuries). During this session toll road operators will shed light on the initiatives they are undertaking and will explain how they use and share data, how they guarantee data security and privacy in a digitalized environment affecting areas such as C-ITS, traffic management operations and radio frequencies.

Another technical session will focus on the environmental challenges and constraints toll road operators are facing in order to meet the new international and European environmental and climate objectives. Delegates will hear about successful initiatives and projects by toll road operators to improve their environmental performances (eg CO2 reduction; reduction in water consumption; recycling of waste materials; measures to facilitate circulation of electric/hybrid vehicles; toll variations according to vehicles classes and internalization of environmental externalities).

During a commercial session ASECAP members will highlight innovative projects concerning their marketing activities towards road users. A final session will see the EU and US - through IBTTA - exchange their viewpoints in the light of the current and future challenges for the toll industry on both sides of the Atlantic.